

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of: Nader for President 2004
Clarissa Peterson, Treasurer
Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy
Russ Walker, Northwest Director
Oregon Family Council
Tim Nashif, Staff
Mike White, Staff
Bush-Cheney '04
David Herndon, Treasurer
Steve Schmidt, Spokesman
Oregon Republican Party
Kevin Mannix, Chariman

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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

AMENDED COMPLAINT

1. Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington hereby brings this amended complaint before the Federal Election Commission seeking an immediate FEC investigation and enforcement action against Nader for President 2004, Clarissa Peterson, Citizens for a Sound Economy, Russ Walker, the Oregon Family Council, Tim Nashif, Mike White, Bush-Cheney '04, David Herndon, Steve Schmidt, the Oregon Republican Party, and Kevin Mannix for direct and serious violations of federal campaign finance law.

Complainant

2. Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to ensuring accountability in public officials.

Respondents

3. Nader for President 2004 is the principal campaign committee for the effort to elect Ralph Nader to the office of President of the United States. The committee is registered with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC"). Clarissa Peterson is the Treasurer of Nader for President 2004.

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4. Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy ("CSE") is a non-profit corporation organized under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. According to its web site, CSE is a membership organization of "360,000 Americans who are passionate about changing policy." www.cse.org/know/president.php. Russ Walker is the northwest director of CSE.

5. The Oregon Family Council ("OFC") is a non-profit organization organized under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. According to its web site, "OFC is an information service for Oregon Christians since 1980." www.ofc.org. Tim Nashif and Mike White are officials with OFC.

6. Bush-Cheney '04 ("BC '04") is the principal campaign committee for the effort to reelect George Bush and Dick Cheney to the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, respectively. The committee is registered with the FEC. David Herndon is the treasurer of BC '04 and Steve Schmidt is a spokesperson for BC '04.

7. The Oregon Republican Party is a state party committee for the state of Oregon. The committee is registered with the FEC. Kevin Mannix is the Chairman of the Party.

Factual Allegations

8. CSE is a "corporation" within the meaning of 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). CSE also accepts many substantial contributions from other corporations. The *Washington Post* reports, for example, that CSE has accepted at least \$1 million from Phillip Morris, \$1 million from US West, \$25,000 from Hertz, \$25,000 from DaimlerChrysler AG, \$175,000 from Exxon, \$280,000 from the U.S. Sugar Corporation, \$280,000 from Florida Crystals, \$140,000 from the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, and \$380,000 from Microsoft. Dan Morgan, *Think Tanks: Corporations' Quit Weapon, Nonprofits' Studies, Lobbying Advance Bug Business Causes*, Washington Post, January 29, 2000 (attached as Exhibit A).

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9. According to a press release found on CSE's website, Oregon CSE members have been working to get Ralph Nader on the November ballot in the state of Oregon. Citizens for a Sound Economy, Phone Script: Conservatives for Ralph Nader?, June 27, 2004 (attached as Exhibit B). The release notes that "Ralph Nader opposes nearly every issue CSE fights for" but that having Nader on the ballot should help to defeat John Kerry.

10. According to CSE's press release, CSE provided a script that CSE employees used to make telephone calls to CSE members urging them to sign a petition to put Ralph Nader on the Oregon ballot. The release includes the language of the script, which specifically states that having Nader on the ballot could "peel away a lot of Kerry support in Oregon, but he has to be on the ballot first." Id. The script continues, "He will make it if at least 1,000 people show up . . . and sign the petition to certify his candidacy." Id.¹

11. Similarly, according to the Oregon Family Council's Tim Nashif, OFC "has been making hundreds of phone calls to members urging them to help get Nader on the ballot." Mr. Nashif stated that his group would "like to take a few votes away from John Kerry if it would be possible." American Political Network, *White House 2004 – The Purple States Oregon: With Friends Like These . . .*, The Hotline, June 25, 2004 (attached as Exhibit C).

12. The OFC script states "We're calling about a great opportunity for you to help President Bush . . . If Ralph Nader gets on the ballot, he would pull thousands of liberal votes that would otherwise go to Kerry and perhaps cause President Bush [*sic*] to lose the election.

¹CSE also appears to have a second, slightly different script. This script states "Ralph Nader needs 1000 signatures to qualify for the ballot, and we need to ensure he gets them. Ralph Nader is undoubtedly going to pull away some very crucial votes from John Kerry, and that could mean the difference in a razor-thin Presidential election. Can we count on you to come out on Saturday night and sign the petition to nominate Ralph Nader?" American Political Network, *White House 2004 – The Purple States Oregon: With Friends Like These . . .*, The Hotline, June 25, 2004.

Would you like to take this opportunity to help President Bush by coming out Saturday night to make sure Ralph Nader gets on the ballot?" Id.

13. CSE northwest director Russ Walker explained that "the idea of helping Nader has been widely discussed among conservative groups and activists." Id. OFC official Mike White said "he was encouraged by someone" in the Oregon GOP "to help boost turnout" for Nader's convention. White "said the effort" was "some kind of party outreach thing." Id.

14. Bush-Cheney '04 campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt explained that BC '04 did not officially sanction efforts by BC '04 staff to encourage Oregon Republicans to support efforts to place Nader on the ballot. He conceded, however, that while no campaign staffers were making calls to encourage Republicans to help Nader, "some volunteers may well have made calls from the campaign's office." Id.

COUNT I

15. As corporations, neither CSE nor OFC is permitted to make a contribution to a federal candidate. 2 U.S.C. §441b(a) and 2 U.S.C. §431(8)(A)(I). Federal campaign law defines "contribution" to include "any gift . . . or anything of value . . ." 2 U.S.C. §431(8)(A)(i). FEC regulations further define "contribution":

For purposes of this section, the term anything of value includes all in-kind contributions. Unless specifically exempted under 11 CFR part 100, subpart C, the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge which is less than the usual and normal charge for such goods or services is a contribution.

11 C.F.R. §100.52(d)(1).

16. The fair market value of the costs of the telephone calls made, the costs of creating the scripts, and the costs of organizing the telephone banks, all used to benefit Nader for President 2004, constitute prohibited in-kind corporate contributions. Moreover, if the list of

telephone numbers was purchased, rented, or on loan from CSE, OFC, the Oregon Republican Party, or BC '04, the value of that list would similarly constitute an illegal in-kind contribution.

17. If Nader for President 2004 was aware that the telephone calls were being made on its behalf, the campaign improperly accepted an in-kind corporate contribution. 2 U.S.C. §441b(a).

18. Because Nader for President 2004 cannot accept corporate contributions, it must reimburse CSE and OFC for all costs associated with the development and use of the script, the list or lists, and the telephone bank within a commercially reasonable time. 11 C.F.R. §114.9(d); FEC Advisory Opinion 2000-20.

COUNT II

19. The Oregon Republican Party, as a state party committee, cannot use soft money to send out public communications referring to a clearly identified candidate and promoting or supporting candidates for federal office. 2 U.S.C. §431(20)(A)(iii). Included in the definition of "public communication" is a telephone bank, which is defined as over 500 calls of a similar nature made within a 30 day period. 2 U.S.C. §431(22). Clearly then, the Oregon Republican Party could not have legally made telephone calls utilizing OFC's script, which refers to both President Bush and Ralph Nader and supports the candidacy of both men.

20. What the Oregon Republican Party could not do directly, it could not do indirectly; yet Mike White of OFC stated that he was "encouraged by someone" in the Oregon Republican Party "to help boost turnout" for the Nader for President 2004 convention in Oregon. American Political Network, The Hotline, June 25, 2004. By encouraging OFC to assist the Nader campaign's turnout, the Oregon Republican Party illegally conspired with OFC to evade

the prohibition on the use of soft money to pay for public communications. 2 U.S.C. §441i(b)(1), 18 U.S.C. §371.

COUNT III

21. BC '04 spokesman Steve Schmidt said that while "no paid campaign staff were making calls to encourage" BC '04 supporters in Oregon "to help Nader," some BC '04 volunteers may well have made calls "from the [BC '04] campaign office." Id. Mr. Schmidt appears to be arguing that, while working as agents of BC '04, an unknown number of BC '04 volunteers each individually, yet somehow simultaneously, decided to abandon their volunteer efforts for BC '04 and, without the prior permission or knowledge of BC '04, use valuable BC '04 assets to carry out individual volunteer efforts on behalf of Nader for President 2004.

22. This argument strains credulity beyond the breaking point. In order for these efforts by agents of BC '04 to be truly voluntary, each individual who used BC '04 assets in support of their supposedly individual volunteer efforts on behalf of Nader for President 2004 would have to reimburse BC '04 for the costs of using any BC '04 assets within a commercially reasonable time. *See, e.g.*, 11 C.F.R. §114.2(f)(2)(i)(B). These costs would include, at a minimum, the fair market of value of the BC '04 mailing list that was used by the pseudo-Nader volunteers to identify BC '04 supporters in Oregon, a pro rata share of the cost to BC '04 of establishing the telephone bank used to make the calls, as well as the costs of the local and/or long distance calls that were actually made. The pseudo-Nader volunteers may also have to reimburse CSE or OFC for the costs of developing any script that was provided to make the calls. If, however, that script was provided by BC '04, Mr. Schmidt's argument that BC '04 volunteers were acting in their own when the made calls in support of Nader for President 2000

simply fails and the entire cost of this telephone bank operation is a contribution to Nader for President 2004 by BC '04.

23. Finally, there is a question as to how much money BC '04' spent on the effort to turn out people to sign Nader's petition. By allowing CSE and OFC members to use Bush-Cheney '04 telephones to make calls encouraging people to sign the Nader campaign's petition, the campaign made a contribution to the Nader campaign which must be reported to the FEC. 2 U.S.C. §434 (a)-(b). Moreover, if the cost of the list of telephone numbers, the scripts and telephone calls was more than \$5,000, Bush-Cheney '04 may have made a prohibited excessive in-kind contribution to Nader for President '04. 2 U.S.C. §441a(a)(1)(C).

WHEREFORE, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington requests that the Federal Election Commission conduct an investigation into these allegations, declare the respondents to have violated the federal campaign finance laws, impose sanctions appropriate to these violations and take such further action as may be appropriate.

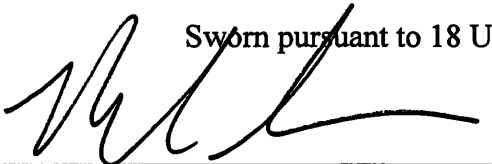


Melanie Sloan, Executive Director
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Verification

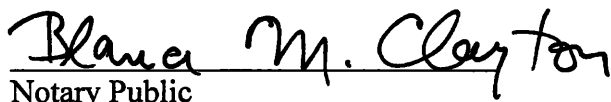
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, acting through Melanie Sloan, hereby verifies that the statements made in the attached Complaint are, upon information and belief, true.

Sworn pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.



Melanie Sloan

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of June, 2004.



Notary Public

Blanca M. Clayton
Notary Public, District of Columbia
My Commission Expires 04-30-2007

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EXHIBIT A

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News & Events

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Saturday, January 29, 2000

A Section

Think Tanks: Corporations' Quiet Weapon; Nonprofits' Studies, Lobbying Advance
 Big Business Causes

Dan Morgan
 Washington Post Staff Writer

Derailing a multibillion-dollar federal plan to restore the Florida Everglades is just the kind of cause that suits **Citizens for a Sound Economy**, a conservative think tank that fights for smaller government.

But soon after the group took on the Everglades project in 1998, the Washington-based nonprofit got an incentive that went beyond the purely philosophical. It received \$700,000 in contributions from Florida's three biggest sugar enterprises, which stand to lose thousands of acres of cane-growing land to reclamation if the Army Corps of Engineers plan goes into effect.

The sugar contributions were never disclosed publicly but were outlined in internal CSE documents that detail how various corporate interests donated millions to the group to bankroll its efforts on issues of direct interest to them, from global warming to Florida tort reform.

Along with those earmarked contributions, from companies such as Exxon Corp. and **Hertz Corp.**, the organization received more than \$1 million from Philip Morris Cos. at a time when CSE was opposing cigarette taxes. Phone company US West Inc. gave \$1 million as CSE pushed deregulation that would let US West offer long-distance service.

The documents, obtained by The Washington Post, provide a rare look at think tanks' often hidden role as a weapon in the modern corporate political arsenal. The groups provide analyses, TV advertising, polling and academic studies that add an air of authority to corporate arguments--in many cases while maintaining the corporate donors' anonymity.

"Corporations have discovered that funding of research, publications, media campaigns and other forms of advocacy on policy issues can serve as an adjunct to traditional corporate lobbying and political contributions," said James Allen Smith, author of a book about think tanks.

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Others use harsher terms. "It's part of a rent-a-mouthpiece phenomenon," said Gary Ruskin of the Congressional Accountability Project. "There are mercenary groups that function as surrogates when industry feels it's not advantageous for it to speak directly."

CSE officials will not discuss specific donations, saying that disclosure could expose contributors to harassment by labor unions or other groups. CSE President Paul N. Beckner strongly denies picking issues with an eye to their potential for luring corporate funds--or tailoring the groups' views to mesh with those of contributors.

"We aren't a group for hire," he said. "There's a bright line that defines our independence. There is only one position we can take on most issues: the one that means less government and lower taxes. We choose the issues we work on, and we decide how that money is expended."

While corporations are prohibited from contributing directly to political candidates, there are no restrictions on their giving to nonprofit organizations such as CSE whose advocacy may help their interests. And though lobbyists representing corporations must register publicly, nonprofit groups are not required to identify the corporations financing their lobbying work.

In recent weeks, CSE has thrown itself into the political campaigns in Iowa and New Hampshire, sending out grass-roots activists--clad in signature red jackets emblazoned with the organization's Web address on the back--to obtain candidate endorsements of its position against Internet taxation.

Such outright activism is not for every think tank. Some, such as the Heritage Foundation, will not accept money for specific projects for fear of appearing beholden to the interest that funded it. Others, such as the Cato Institute, take earmarked money but go beyond the legal requirements and identify major donors.

For example, the largest supporter of Cato's study of Social Security privatization is the U.S. insurance company AIG, which manages privatized retirement systems abroad and stands to benefit if--as Cato is recommending--such an option is put in place here.

But other groups, including CSE, use donations for specific projects without making public the names of their donors--raising questions even among some of their fellow think tanks. "A nonprofit which is doing work for a very clear interest ought to reveal that," said Urban Institute President William Gorham.

On the other end of the political spectrum, some left-leaning think tanks take money from similarly interested parties. For example, unions provided the seed money to start the Economic Policy Institute, which produces research on trade, wage and work-related issues.

CSE, founded in 1984, has become a particularly vocal and political group under the chairmanship of C. Boyden Gray, a Washington lawyer who served as President George Bush's White House counsel. Modeling itself on grass-roots groups such as the Christian Coalition and Ralph Nader's activist organizations, CSE has inserted itself into a number of fights with the Clinton administration and become an active force in state politics on issues from tort reform to labor.

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The group has a foundation that can take tax-deductible contributions--used, for example, to finance its "education" effort in support of a California initiative requiring unions to get annual permission from members to use dues for political purposes. It has a nonprofit arm that can engage in even more extensive lobbying. This year, CSE is branching into explicitly electoral politics; its board recently voted to set up a political action committee with a goal of raising at least \$1 million for favored candidates in 2000.

Critics--and even some business lobbyists--have previously said that CSE's "grass roots" activism has sometimes been, as National Journal wrote in 1996, "a fig leaf for corporate lobbying efforts." But the newly obtained internal CSE spreadsheet--whose information was verified independently with a number of corporations--offers the most precise illustration yet of the close fit between CSE funding and corporate interests.

It shows that Exxon Corp.'s \$175,000 for "global climate" issues arrived after Beckner dismissed the notion of global warming as "junk science." Huizenga Holdings' gift of \$75,000 went toward the battle for Florida tort reform legislation, which limited car rental companies' liability. The holding company manages the investments of Florida businessman Wayne Huizenga in, among other things, auto rental companies.

A CSE project on the New Jersey auto insurance market brought in funds from three insurance companies and two trade associations. The Association of American Railroads chipped in for a study of legislation that could force railroad companies to let other shippers use their tracks.

Several months after Microsoft Corp. committed \$380,000 to CSE's tax-exempt foundation last May, CSE officials lobbied in Congress to limit the Justice Department's budget for antitrust enforcement. CSE officials say their opposition to Justice's antitrust suit against Microsoft long predated the company's contribution.

CSE was founded by two free-spirited midwestern oil and gas tycoons, the brothers David H. and Charles G. Koch, principal owners of Koch Industries of Wichita. Foundations they controlled helped found Cato, CSE and other less-known think tanks committed to the Kochs' libertarian beliefs.

But although the Kochs and a stable of wealthy individuals and foundations have continued to provide a base of support, corporate contributions now constitute the bulk of CSE's income, which has grown from \$4 million in 1991 to \$15.5 million in 1998. According to the documents, General Electric and Publix Super Markets Inc. gave \$500,000 in 1998, and Emerson Electric Co., AlliedSignal Inc., and Johnson & Johnson provided \$200,000 each.

"Our goal is to build an army of grass-roots activists who believe in limited government and lower taxes," Beckner said.

CSE's Florida operations exemplify its activism.

CSE took in the sugar industry contributions--\$280,000 each from U.S. Sugar Corp. and Florida Crystals Corp., and \$140,000 from the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida--from October to December 1998. That November, CSE

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Foundation issued a news release asserting that the Everglades project would cost \$120 per household in Florida and could result in the loss of 2,879 jobs. The foundation also released a poll concluding that the vast majority of Floridians did not support tax hikes to finance the project.

Describing CSE as the "voice of consumers for free enterprise," CSE representatives in polo shirts with the CSE logo showed up at a series of local hearings on the plan. And in early 1999, CSE Foundation unveiled a study charging that a peer review panel appointed by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt lacked objectivity.

Meanwhile, sugar industry representatives kept a low profile, asserting publicly that, in principle, they supported the restoration plan. The Florida legislature approved a revised version of it last year, but hurdles remain, including congressional funding. The companies said they did not renew their contributions to CSE in 1999 because CSE's outspoken criticism no longer reflected their position.

CSE officials, emphasizing their group's independence, noted that, on a separate issue, CSE's opposition to sugar import quotas is sharply at odds with the domestic sugar industry. But U.S. Sugar Corp. spokesman Robert Buker noted that CSE "has not been in the front row of the debate" over import quotas since it received industry funding. "We had a good dialogue with them," he added.

The Everglades has been just one of CSE's Florida projects. Jon L. Shebel, president and chief executive of Associated Industries of Florida, representing 10,000 businesses, credits CSE with helping enact the broad tort reform last year that was business's top priority in the state.

"They've made a difference in Florida," said Shebel. "We had a major war going on with the trial lawyers. At times [CSE] would take the TV, and we would take the radio. They have access to big dollars that we don't have access to. . . . It's added a new dimension."

According to CSE documents, at least \$460,000, mainly in corporate donations, was earmarked for the project in 1998. The funds included the Huizenga contributions, \$25,000 each from Hertz Corp. and DaimlerChrysler AG, and \$10,000 from Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group.

"It was a meeting of the minds," said Huizenga Holdings spokesman George Rizriet. "We trust that they're going to do what they agree to do, which is to support the issue."

When necessary, CSE displayed a willingness to use hardball tactics in pursuit of tort reform. Martin County, Fla., attorney Joseph Negrón, a Republican, felt CSE's bite last fall when the group ran a stream of TV ads in favor of his GOP primary opponent in a special election for state assembly. The ads branded Negrón a "trial attorney," and although they did not specifically urge a vote against him, the implication was clear that voters should back Negrón's opponent, who had pledged to protect the recently passed tort reform.

"Our political department orchestrated the whole thing," said Associated Industries' Shebel. "We called CSE and said here's the plan, can you do something?"

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They did TV. We did radio, direct mail and all the analytical work."

"It's a lethal way to go after somebody," said Negron. "They can fly under the radar screen because they don't have to give you notice. There are no limits, no restrictions and no disclosure. It's put the fear of God in a number of Republican candidates."

----- INDEX REFERENCES -----

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EXHIBIT B



Citizens for a Sound Economy
June 27, 2004

Phone Script: Conservatives for Ralph Nader?

Oregon CSE members push to get Nader on the ballot.

Contact: Chris Kinnan
Phone: (202) 942-(202) 236-5615
Email: ckinnan@cse.org

Washington, D.C. - Oregon CSE members are working to get Ralph Nader on the November ballot! While this sounds completely backwards-- Ralph Nader opposes nearly every issue CSE fights for-- but there's sound logic behind Oregon CSE's actions. CSE does not advocate the election or defeat of political candidates, but Oregon CSE members feel that having Nader on the ballot helps illuminate the strong similarities between the uber-liberal Nader and John Kerry. That's why they've been making calls to their friends to sign a petition to get Nader on the ballot, using a phone script that reads:

"Hi, my name is Russ Walker, director of Citizens for a Sound Economy here in Oregon, and I wanted to tell you about an opportunity we have to drive a wedge through the Liberal Left's base of support.

In this year's presidential race, Ralph Nader could peel away a lot of Kerry support in Oregon, but he has to be on the ballot first. He will make it if at least 1,000 people show up this Saturday at Grant High school at 4:00 pm and sign the petition to certify his candidacy.

Liberals are trying to unite in Oregon and keep Nader off the ballot to help their chances of electing John Kerry. We could divide this base of support by showing up at Grant High school on Saturday.

Poor Ralph Nader: He just wants to make the ballot here in Oregon. Let's give him what he wants and just watch what happens in November!"

—30—

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For more information visit <http://www.cse.org>

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American Political Network
 The Hotline
 Volume 10 No. 9
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June 25, 2004

WHITE HOUSE 2004 -- THE PURPLE STATES OREGON (7 EVS): WITH FRIENDS LIKE
 THESE...

Groups allied with Pres. Bush "are encouraging their conservative members to do the seemingly unthinkable": attend a convo 6/26 to help put Ralph Nader on the OR ballot. The groups, "with the encouragement" of some GOP political operatives, "are telling their members that Nader would draw votes" from John Kerry "and boost Bush's chances" of winning OR.

Officials "from two groups that have been calling members," the OR Family Council and **Citizens for a Sound Economy**, "said they had no qualms about trying to help Nader despite opposing most of what he stands for." OR Family Council's Tim Nashif: "We'd like to take a few votes away from John Kerry if it would be possible." The group "has been making hundreds of phone calls to members urging them to help get Nader on the ballot."

The OR Family Council "also puts out a guide for Christian voters and Nashif is a key organizer of the effort to qualify a ballot measure that would prohibit same-sex marriage in the state."

Citizens for a Sound Economy state dir. Russ Walker "said the idea of helping Nader has been widely discussed among conservative groups and activists" in OR. Walker: "It's definitely an interesting scenario. ... We don't agree with Ralph Nader's positions on the issues -- he's socialistic and we're free marketers. ... We think he'll take some of the more extreme votes from the other side."

OR Family Council official Mike White "said he was encouraged by someone" in the OR GOP "to help boost turnout" for Nader's convo. White "said the effort" was "some kind of party outreach thing."

Bush camp spokesperson Steve Schmidt "said no paid campaign staffers were making calls to encourage" GOPers "to help Nader. But he said some volunteers may well have made calls" from the camp's office. Schmidt: "The campaign certainly understands that when Republican volunteers see that there are Democrat volunteers trying to restrict the choice and keep Ralph Nader off the ballot, that they should work to expand choice."

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Kerry spokesperson Laura Capps criticized the GOP help for Nader in OR, "saying it was a 'shame the Bush camp has to resort to such tactics to lure their base to support a third-party candidate'" (Mapes, Portland Oregonian, 6/25).

Nader OR camp head Greg Kafoury "said he's had no contact with the two conservative groups that have been calling people thisweek. But he said he's not bothered by their actions, either." Kafoury: "It's a free country; anybody can come to a political convention" (Cain, AP, 6/25).

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

The **Citizens for a Sound Economy** phone script:

"Hi. This is _____ with **Citizens for a Sound Economy**. I am calling because we have a chance to stop John Kerry from winning in Oregon. As you have probably heard, Ralph Nader is trying to make the ballotin Oregon for the November Election. He is going to be in town this weekend to host a nominating party on Saturday night at Benson High School. Ralph Nader needs 1000 signatures to qualify for the ballot, and we need to ensure he gets them. Ralph Nader is undoubtedly going to pull some very crucial votes from John Kerry, and that could mean the difference in a razor-thin Presidential election. Can we count on you to come out on Saturday night and sign the petition to nominate Ralph Nader?"

The OR Family Council script:

"We're calling about a great opportunity for you to help President Bush. It's a little unconventional, but ... Ralph Nader, an environmental and anti-war activist, is holding an open rally this weekendto try to obtain 1,000 signatures from registered Oregon voters to qualify for the November ballot in Oregon. We don't think that many people will show up. If Ralph Nader gets on the ballot, he would pull thousands of liberal votes that would otherwise go to Kerry and perhaps cause President Bush to lose the election. Would you like to take this opportunity to help President Bush by coming out Saturday night to make sure Ralph Nader gets on the ballot? The event is Saturday night at Benson High School from 5-7 pm" (Hotline sources, 6/25).

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script used by **Citizens for a Sound Economy** in its phone calls. "Can we count on you to come out on Saturday night and sign the petition to nominate Ralph Nader?"

Russ Walker, state director of **Citizens for a Sound Economy**, which led the successful effort to repeal a state income tax increase approved by the 2003 Oregon Legislature, said the idea of helping Nader has been widely discussed among conservative groups and activists in Oregon.

"It's definitely an interesting scenario," Walker said. "We don't agree with Ralph Nader's positions on the issues -- he's socialistic and we're free marketers. . . . We think he'll take some of the more extreme votes from the other side."

Another official in the Oregon Family Council, Mike White, said he was encouraged by someone in the Oregon Republican Party to help boost turnout for Nader's convention. White said the effort was "some kind of party outreach thing."

Lee Coleman, a member of the Oregon State Republican Central Committee, said he received two calls this week from Republican sources urging him to help Nader.

One came from a member of the Washington County Young Republicans, according to Coleman, who said he has decided to oppose Bush this year. The other call, which Coleman said included a message left on his answering machine, included what turned out to be a number for the Bush-Cheney campaign office in Oregon.

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said no paid campaign staffers were making calls to encourage Republicans to help Nader. But he said some volunteers may well have made calls from the campaign's office.

"The campaign certainly understands that when Republican volunteers see that there are Democrat volunteers trying to restrict the choice and keep Ralph Nader off the ballot, that they should work to expand choice," Schmidt said.

In Arizona, Democratic voters have sued in an attempt to remove Nader from the ballot there. Democrats say they believe Nader got secret help from Republicans, a charge denied by Arizona Republicans.

Laura Capps, a Kerry spokeswoman, criticized the Republican help for Nader in Oregon, saying it was a "shame the Bush camp has to resort to such tactics to lure their base to support a third-party candidate."

Portland attorney Greg Kafoury, who heads the Nader campaign in Oregon, said he saw nothing wrong with the Republican outreach efforts.

"It's a free country," he said. "People do things in their own interest."

Nader, who spoke Thursday on one conservative talk radio show in Portland, has made a determined effort this year to persuade conservatives to abandon Bush. At the same time, Kafoury said Nader has had to contend with supporters of Kerry who are trying to keep him off the ballot.

For example, Kafoury said that the Nader campaign put up fliers on dozens of utility poles around the city advertising the Saturday event and that most were torn down within 12 hours.

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"Four years ago, our signs stayed up for a month," he said. "Things are getting ugly out there."

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